(घ) पोर्टेबल तोलसेतु का उपयोग करने से वाहनों की ओवरलोडिंग में कमी आई है जिसके फलस्वरूप दुर्घटनाओं में भी कमी आई है।

**Safety Norms in Automobiles**

545. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to frame laws to enforce safety norms in automobiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to update our law in this context; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 empowers the Government to frame rules regulating the construction, equipment and maintenance of motor vehicles with respect to various items like breaks, steering gears, signaling appliances, speed governors, safety belts, standard of the components used in the vehicle as in-built safety devices. Such rules were notified in the year 1989. Therefore, there is no need to frame any fresh laws.

(c) and (d) The updating of relevant rules and prescribing of standard for components as in-built safety devices is a continuing process and as and when any technical or other developments so warrant, necessary changes in the rules are made.

**Road accident due to rash and negligent Driving**

546. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that every year three lakh road accidents occur in India resulting in nearly 60,000 deaths and losses of about Rs. 35 crores;

(b) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to award death sentence if death is caused by rash and negligent driving; if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**परिधान उद्योग की समस्याओं पर विचार करने के लिए गठित की गई समिति**

547. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या परिधान उद्योग की समस्याओं पर विचार करने के लिए कोई समिति गठित की गई थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या समिति ने अपनी सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत कर दी हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो समिति ने क्या-क्या सिफारिशें की हैं तथा सरकार द्वारा उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो प्रतिवेदन को प्रस्तुत करने में होने वाले विलंब के क्या कारण हैं तथा इसे कब तक प्रस्तुत किए जाने की संभावना है?

**वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर॰एल॰ जालप्पा):** (क) से (ङ) जी, हां। भारत में वस्त्र तथा क्लोदिंग उद्योग पर विशेष रूप से उसकी निर्यात संभाव्यता के संदर्भ में अध्ययन करने के लिए एक समिति की स्थापना की थी।

समिति ने 22.1.1997 को अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है जो कि इस समय विचाराधीन है।

**Report of the NTC to Government on viability of its Sick Mills**

548. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has submitted a report to the

Government on the viability of each of the 120 sick NTC mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details of each mill proposed to be put on rails;

(c) the amount involved in their rehabilitation and modernisation therein; and

(d) the details of such mills in Gujarat which are likely to be revilised in modernisation and the number of workers likely to be rehabilitated thereby?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The report is presently under consideration of the Government.

**Export of Raw Cotton from Maharashtra**

549. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minsiter of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cotton growers in Maharashtra are suffering because the average yield of raw cotton is falling and prices are stagnant in the domestic market;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to encourage export of raw cotton to keep cotton growing attractive for the growers in the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase cotton production in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) In Maharashtra, cotton is procured by the Maharashtra Co-operative Cotton Growers marketing Federation Ltd. under the Cotton Monopoly Purchase Scheme.

The area under cotton and average yield of cotton in Maharashtra over the last three years has been as follows:

| Year | Area (lac hac.) | Yield (Kg./hac.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 27.30 | 87.00 |
| 1994-95 | 27.60 | 99.00 |
| 1995-96 | 30.65 | 157.00 |

(Source: Cotton Advisory Board)

The price of Kapas in Maharashtra, compared to prices of equivalent prices in other States are given in the statement attached (*See* below).

(b) During the current (1996-97) cotton season, the Government has released so far an export quota of 1 lakh bales of staple cotton to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented by the Union Ministry of Agriculture in cotton growing States, including Maharashtra.

**Statement**

| S.No. | Maharashtra Variety | Kapas Price Price (Rs./Qt) in Maharashtra | Equivalent variety in other States | State where grown | Price Range (Rs/Qt) in other States |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | NHH-44 | 1975 | F-414 | Punjab Haryana | 1820-1830 |
| 2. | LRA-5166 | 2000 | LRA | MP | 1825-1660 |
| 3. | H/4MEC-1 | 2100 | S-4/S-6/H4 | Gujarat/MP | 1700-2050 |
| 4. | Y-1 | 1870 | J-34/ | Punjab | 1586-1850 |